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Media Release

August 12, 2009

Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit secures conviction and sentence in senior abuse case

Wilmington, DE - The Delaware Department of Justice announced today that Vanessa Turpin-Brown, age 44, was sentenced on Friday, August 7, 2009 in New Castle County Superior Court on two felony charges of Exploitation of an Infirm Adult. Superior Court Judge M. Jane Brady sentenced Turpin-Brown to eighteen months in prison, followed by one year of intensive probation. The Court also ordered the defendant to make restitution to the victim's estate and a family member in the amount of \$22,200.89. Turpin-Brown pled guilty on May 18, 2009.

"This case is an example of the Delaware Department of Justice's commitment to vigorously investigating and prosecuting those who take advantage of our citizens who, because of their infirmity, are unable to provide for their own care," said Timothy Mullaney, Director of the Fraud and Consumer Protection Division.

From April through December 2007, Turpin-Brown illegally or improperly used the financial resources of Floree Blair, an 84-year-old infirm woman who had been residing in Brooklyn NY until the defendant brought her to the Smyrna area in March 2007. These resources included the victim's social security checks, an annuity account, a prepaid burial policy, and bank accounts. During the time that the victim was under the care of Turpin-Brown, all of her financial resources were depleted with no evidence that any of these resources were used to pay for the care of the victim. The victim died on November 25, 2007.

This conviction was Turpin-Brown's second offense for financial exploitation of an infirm adult. Her previous conviction, in July 2006, involved the exploitation of an 89-year-old infirm woman who was a resident of Forwood Manor in North Wilmington at the time of the offense.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy Attorney General James V. Apostolico and investigated by Medicaid Fraud Control Unit Special Investigator Dale Hall.

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